

Message Text

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70

ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6006

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: OVIP/ PBOR/ MX

SUBJECT: SALINITY: PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA COMMENTS ON
US PROPOSAL

1. SEVERAL MEXICO CITY PAPERS CARRIED MAY 16 STORIES
BASED ON PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENTS MADE BY PRESIDENT
ECHEVERRIA IN GUADALAJARA CONCERNING USG PROPOSAL ON
SALINITY PRESENTED DURING SECRETARY ROGERS' VISIT.
" NOVEDADES" CARRIED HEADLINE STATING " WE WILL ASK FOR
INDEMNIFICATION FOR DAMAGES OF SALINITY". ACTUALLY, THIS
SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN IMPLICIT RATHER THAN EXPLICIT IN
PRESIDENT' S REMARKS. " EL HERALDO" LEAD WAS " US PROPOSAL ON
SALINITY A TRIUMPH FOR MEXICO ".

2. TEXT OF EXCHANGE AS QUOTED IN SEMI- OFFICIAL " EL NACIONAL"
BROUGHT OUT FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON WHAT PROPOSAL
CONTAINED, PRESIDENT ANSWERED " IT WILL BE PUBLISHED
TODAY... USG HAS MADE VERY INTERESTING PROPOSALS FOR
DEFINITIVE WORKS WHICH WILL REQUIRE MAJOR INVESTMENT
AND WHICH WE WILL STUDY IN DETAIL."

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(B) QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER MEXICO WOULD CONTINUE TO ASK FOR INDEMNIFICATION, ECHEVERRIA' S RESPONSE IN TOTO WAS " OR A WORK WHICH WOULD GUARANTEE FOR US AMPLE BENEFITS. AT THIS TIME WE ARE EXAMINING THE NORTH AMERICAN PROPOSAL. NEGOTIATIONS ARE PROCEEDING IN A VERY GOOD MANNER."

(C) PRESIDENT FURTHER SAID THAT HE WOULD SEND SECRETARY OF HYDRAULIC RESOURCES LEANDRO ROVIROSA WADE TO MEXICALI VALLEY IN NEXT TWO OR THREE DAYS TO INFORM FARMERS OF PROGRESS.

(D) FINALLY, PRESIDENT IS QUOTED AS HAVING SAID THAT USG HAD NOT MADE ON SINGLE PROPOSAL TO SOLVE SALINITY PROBLEM DURING 12 OR 13 YEARS AND THAT PRESENT PROPOSAL, INVOLVING DESALINIZATION, REPRESENTS MAJOR AND IMPORTANT CHANGE IN ATTITUDE ON PART OF USG.

3. COMMENT: WE DOUBT THAT PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA PLANS TO RELEASE PROPOSAL FOR PUBLICATION. LUIS CABRERA OF FONSECRETARIAT BELIEVES THAT REFERENCE MUST HAVE BEEN TO ALREADY RELEASED STATEMENT BY RABASA (MEXICO 3445 NOTAL). ON QUESTION OF DAMAGES, PRESIDENT' S RESPONSE WAS WORDED IN SUCH A MANNER THAT PUBLIC WORKS FORESEEN IN OUR OWN PLANNING COULD BE PLAYED AS MEETING MEXICAN REQUIREMENTS SHOULD GOM SO DESIRE. HOWEVER, WE WOULD NOT DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY THAT ECHEVERRIA ADMINISTRATION INDEED MIGHT TRY TO INSIST ON FORMAL COMPENSATION.
DEAN

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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